

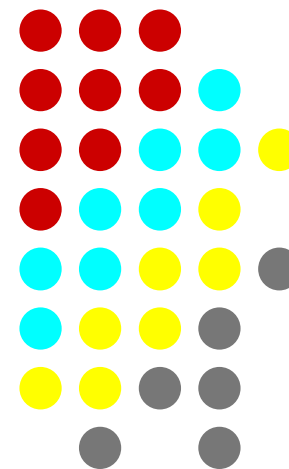
**Social Work
Profession**

Social Work Professionalism

SWRK5003



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SWRK5003

Social Work Intervention

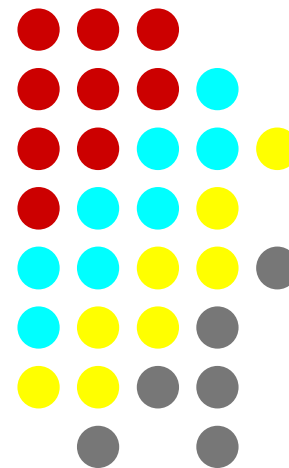
Unit- I

Foundation of Social Work Intervention



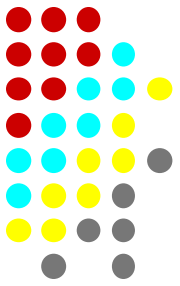
Topic

Social Work Professionalism



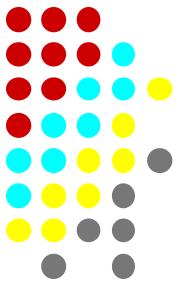


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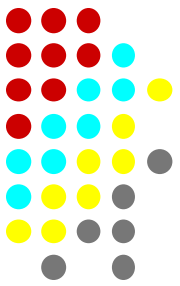
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- Meaning of Social Work Profession
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- Professional Characteristics of Social Work in India
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Origin of Social Work Profession



- Social work, as a profession, originated in the 19th century.
- The movement began primarily in the United States and England.
- W.A. Friedlander, a renowned American social work scientist defined social work in his book entitled “Introduction to Social Welfare” in the year 1955. He said, “Social work is a professional service, based on scientific knowledge and skills in human relations, which assists individuals alone or in groups, to obtain social and personal satisfaction and independence”.

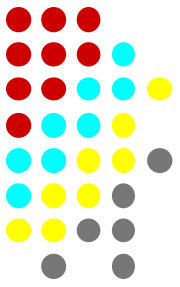
Meaning of Social Work Profession



Meaning

- A profession is generally seen as an occupation which requires a higher educational qualification that may be a degree, a diploma or a certificate course for its practice.
- It is characterized by a specialized body of knowledge and skills, a specified area of operation, a defined code of ethics and certain degree of organization among the members of the profession.
- Thus, it can be further defined that a profession is an occupation for which specialized knowledge, methods, skills and training are required and the members of the profession work not only for their self-satisfaction but also for the larger interest of the society.
- Not all the occupations are professions for they lack some characteristics of professions and they also need to pass through certain stages of development before achieving the status of a profession.

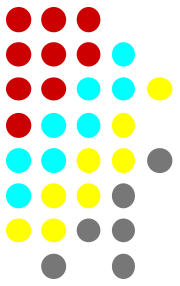
Characteristics of Social Work Profession



According to Miriam Van Waters the following characteristics in a profession are being emphasized:

1. Acquisition of special skills based on training,
2. A function to perform that is recognized by public opinion
3. A feeling of kinship due to common training
4. A sense of loyalty or humour expressing itself in a code of ethics in the field of mutual relationship between clients, the worker and the public.

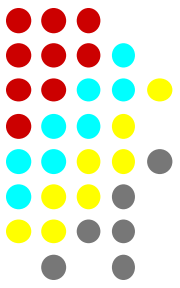
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Some general characteristics of a profession in the following lines:

1. A profession has a systematic and scientific body of knowledge
2. It has an organized system of imparting education(University training)
3. It has some specialized activities of its professionals
4. It has its own professional organizations
5. It has a professional code of ethics for the professionals
6. It has social recognition

Professional Characteristics of Social Work in India

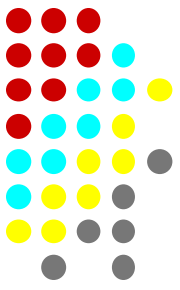


In the light of the characteristics of a profession now examine the validity of the claim of social work as a profession as under:

1. A systematic and scientific body of knowledge:

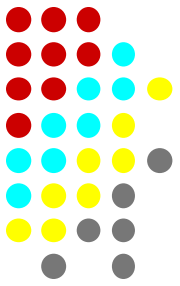
Social work is based on scientific body of knowledge which enables the professionals to view understand a person, his problem and his social environment in a distinct way. The area of knowledge basically incorporated in the body of social work knowledge can be grouped as follows:

- i) The knowledge about Human behaviour and social environment**
- ii) Knowledge about methods and tools and techniques of social work**
- iii) Fields of Social Work**
- iv) Social Problem**
- v) Knowledge about values and principles**



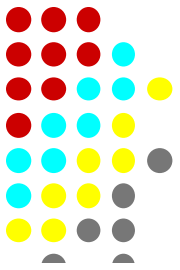
2. Organized system of Education (University Training)

- Social work as a profession has a distinct identity in the field of education.
- The first school of social work was established in 1936 in the name of Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work, Bombay.
- After independence many institutes of social work education like Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi (1947); Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad (1947); Delhi School of Social Work (1948); Boroda School of Social Work(1949); Department of Social Work, Lucknow university(1949) etc were established in India to its credit.
- At present there are more than 200 professional training institutes of social work spread all over India providing different courses in social work discipline.
- Yet, social work remains to be widely recognized discipline at par with the other professions in India.



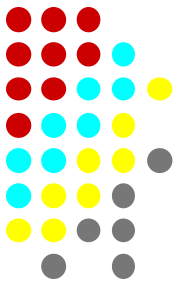
3. Specialized activities of the professionals

- It is difficult to draw a strict line of demarcation between the practices of social work, social welfare and social service in India because of the nature of the problems in the country.
- Social work professionals are engaged in specialized activities like counseling, therapeutic action, social action, community organization, resource mobilization, environmental modification, service facilitation, development planning and so on with special reference to the values and principles of social work profession.
- This makes the professionals distinct in their approach to various problems in the society.



4. Professional Organizations

- Professional organizations are important for a profession in the sense that they represent the profession in times of need.
- They guide the profession from the front to give a new height in its standard of education and practice.
- In India several professional organizations of social work have come up in the due course of time and rendered commendable service towards the development of the profession.
- Like the Indian Association of Alumni of Schools of Social Work (IAASSW) was formed in 1951 to provide necessary inputs for the development of social work education in this country.
- There are several professional organizations at the levels of schools of social work putting their efforts to develop social work into a full-fledged profession.



5. Professional Code of Ethics

Some recognized professional ethics of social work can be enumerated in the following points:

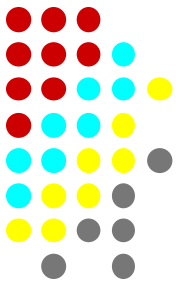
- i) Respect for human dignity and personality
- ii) Dignity of each human being, be it a prince.
- iii) Matching the available resources with the felt needs.
- iv) Stimulating change to enhance democratic values.
- v) Accomplishing change through co-operation on both intellectual and emotional levels
- vi) Serving as change agent from behind the scene, so that the individual, group or community may emotionally feel that the change was not imposed from outside but was autonomously sought by the individual, group, or community.
- vii) Respect for the profession



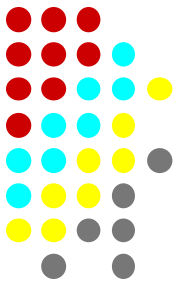
6. Social Recognition

- Social work as a profession has been accepted by the governments of many countries round the globe.
- Many governmental and non-governmental organizations employ trained social workers for various posts.
- In India the recognition and acceptance of social work among employers and the people is very low in comparison to that of social workers in the western countries.
- Social work is spreading in the fields of health care, child welfare, women welfare, rural development, correctional service and so on.
- It is gradually achieving social recognition in the respective fields of practice.

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THANK YOU